

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

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Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

MASSACHUSETTS MAN GETS MAXIMUM FEDERAL SENTENCE FOR WILLFULLY FAILING TO PAY LOUISIANA CHILD SUPPORT

Ordered to pay \$94,443.88 in restitution

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . A 12-hour sentencing hearing which ended at 9:30 p.m. yesterday in federal court left one defendant serving a maximum sentence for failing to pay his court-ordered child support. JAMIE EDELKIND, age 43, from Massachusetts was sentenced yesterday to two years imprisonment to be followed by one year supervised release by United States District Judge Rebecca Doherty, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington. EDELKIND was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$94,443.88 and is to begin monthly installments of \$2,500 with 30 days of release from federal custody.

EDELKIND was found guilty of willful nonpayment of child support by a federal jury in June 2006. Following trial, the jury deliberated for three and a half hours before returning a guilty verdict.

This case is the result of investigations which began in 2002 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General. The Superior Court of Cobb County, state of Georgia, ordered EDELKIND to pay child support in the amount of \$1,400 per month commencing December 1,

1998. The Georgia state child support order was executed and modified in July 2003 by Louisiana's 15th Judicial District Court Judge David Blanchet after the defendant refused to comply with the Georgia order. Judge Blanchet ordered the defendant to pay the child support arrearage and set the child support at \$1,537.09 per month. After the July 2003 hearing, EDELKIND was indicted in Atlanta, Georgia for federal bank fraud charges to which he pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to served 12 months and a day imprisonment. However, EDELKIND still failed to pay any of his child support obligation and issued fake certified checks, fake cashier's checks, and changed his Social Security number on accounts in an effort to avoid paying child support. Records indicate that EDELKIND filed bankruptcy in 1999, but in 2000 purchased the seaside mansion that once was the summer home of Joseph Kennedy and President John F. Kennedy in Nantasket, Massachusetts. Evidence showed that he and his new family lived extravagantly while he continued to refuse to pay child support owed in Louisiana.

Charges were again filed in Massachusetts against EDELKIND for bank fraud in 2004 relating to the purchase of the seaside mansion. He was convicted and sentenced to serve 5 years in federal prison and ordered to pay full restitution of \$3,300,000 to the banks he defrauded in Massachusetts.

The sentence imposed on EDELKIND yesterday must be served consecutively with the sentences for the two bank fraud prosecutions mentioned above.

During the June 2006 trial, EDELKIND claimed he had no resources and no ability to pay child support despite hiring computer programmers, renovating the Kennedy mansion, hiring aupairs, driving luxury vehicles, purchasing extravagant paintings, and spending thousands of dollars on clothes, lunches and shopping sprees. In 2004, prior to and during incarceration, EDELKIND wired \$308,000 to an account in Norway.

Willful nonpayment of child support is criminalized by federal statute 18 U.S.C. § 228. This statute

allows for federal prosecution of child support cases when the person ordered to pay child support has failed to do so for a period longer than two years or owes more than \$10,000 in back child support. Additionally, for federal jurisdiction, the child must reside in a state different than that of the person owing child support.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

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